

Wild New Forest

Access for people with limited mobility in the New Forest



Wild New Forest

www.wildnewforest.co.uk

We **INFORM** by co-ordinating and contributing to surveys for species of high conservation concern and promptly delivering robust data to management bodies to support targeted conservation action

We **INVOLVE** volunteers in survey work, support responsible recreation, and increase awareness of wildlife and conservation through an exciting programme of guided tours, workshops and camps

We **INSPIRE** by sharing our experiences and delivering a multimedia natural history portfolio via online portals, public talks, media appearances and high-quality educational products

INFORM



- *Wildlife survey and monitoring*
- *Wildlife enhancement projects*
- *Support to management bodies*
- *Scientific data and research*

INVOLVE



- *Guided wildlife tours*
- *Wildlife ID workshops*
- *Young persons wildlife camp*
- *Wildlife volunteering*

INSPIRE



- *Website, blog and social media*
- *Public talks and displays*
- *TV and media consultancy*
- *Educational products*





Issues for mobility access in The New Forest

- Poor facilities
- Lack of suitable routes
- Restricted to cycle routes
- Poor maintenance of routes
- No access to wilder parts of the Forest
- Limited support / guidance



Current status – car parks with facilities



Anderwood
Only route out rutted and muddy, impossible for wheelchair



Whitefield Moor
No suitable routes



Blackwater
Best option but rather tame area for the wildlife enthusiast



Bolderwood
No suitable routes



Wilverley
Limited route with steep incline, only suitable for motorised wheelchair (toilet hard/undignified to access by wheelchair)



Boltons Bench (scenery)

Limited options tricky route to negotiate

Millyford Bridge (fungi, flora)

Route closed due to bridge maintenance

Ashley Walk (heathland wildlife)

Limited options, steep inclines

Fritham (birds, fungi)

Limited routes not covering key areas steep inclines

Pig Bush (raptors, heathland wildlife)

No viable route

Acres Down (raptors, rare birds, fungi, flora)

Suitable routes but with steep inclines

Lymington/Keyhaven Marsh



- **Almost complete access, few section that are not accessible with wheelchair**
- **Well maintained**
- **Toilets with good access at main access points**
- **Lots of route options/multiple access points**
- **Close views of a range of wildlife**
- **Regular interpretation boards.**

Wish List!

- **Improve access to toilet facilities**
- Enable better access and improve routes from locations with toilet facilities.
- **Liaise with business to support better access**
- Hotels/Guest Houses with direct access to form part of a network enabling access
- **Improve information for visitors**
- Dedicated leaflet/app highlighting suitable access points and facilities
- **Create route into heart of the Forest**
- Longer circular route with access to a wilder part of the New Forest.



Newsletter

Wild New Forest

January 2023 Newsletter

Review of 2022

First of all, Russ and Marcus would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and express our gratitude for your ongoing support.

2022 has been another busy year with many highlights, too many to mention in this short piece so Marcus will mention just some of his special moments that he has experienced while leading walks or doing fieldwork in the New Forest.



I can't reel off my highlights without mentioning Hawfinch, a species I have studied for over 10 years in the New Forest. The highlights this year have been many and varied from finding two new communal roosts to monitoring nesting attempts and one excellent morning bird ringing with attendees from the young person's wildlife camp in May when nine new Hawfinch were colour-ringed. One highlight occurred while watching a Hawfinch roost in the south of the Forest, standing quietly waiting for the first birds to exit the roost, two Badgers popped up in front of Rob Farnworth and I and proceeded to mate right in front of us. A noisy and uncomfortable affair to watch but breath-taking none the less, it goes to show that amazing experiences can happen at any time in the New Forest.

The Beaulieu River Boat Trip was a new venture for 2022 and we have loved every trip, I could reel of a list of glamorous highlights including close views of White-tailed Eagle, Honey Buzzard and Goshawk or the many encounters with the endearing Grey and Common Seals but the moment that caps it all occurred in September. Taking the obligatory tea break at the mouth of the Beaulieu River the boat suddenly became surrounded by 100's of Gull and Terns partaking in a feeding frenzy. Mainly Black-headed and Mediterranean Gull and Sandwich Tern we soon picked out Black Tern, Arctic Tern and Gannet joining the throng of feeding seabirds. The feeding frenzy only lasted around 10 minutes, but it was a magical, visceral experience that I will remember for a long time.



Another highlight was an amazing experience with a Pine Marten while doing some fieldwork on a lovely June morning at 0530. Alerted to alarm calling Blackbirds, a tell-tale sign that a day roosting Tawny Owl had been spotted, I stopped to take a look when a Pine Marten burst out of the vegetation right in front of me. We locked eyes for what felt like minutes but was only a mere few seconds before the Marten motored off across the path trailing a gaggle of alarm calling Blackbirds, Song Thrush, and Great Tit. Over in seconds but an experience that will stay with me for some time!

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Follow the New Forest code

The New Forest is a unique place with rare wildlife and free-roaming livestock. Thank you for helping us care for this special place by following the simple New Forest code.



Keep your distance from the animals – don't feed or touch them



Keep dogs under control. Don't let dogs approach or chase any animals



Stick to the permitted cycle tracks



Take home litter and dog waste



Park only in car parks



Drive with care – animals on the road!



No fires or barbecues



No wild camping



Help wildlife by keeping to the main tracks

